

June 2002

UNDERGROUNDING PROGRAM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Letters To California Public Utilities Commission Requested

As many of you know, I'm a strong proponent of undergrounding utility lines in our older, urban neighborhoods. Increasing the number of underground lines throughout San Diego allows us to improve safety for our residents, remove the visual blight of the wires and restore our communities to neighborhoods we can be proud of.



Four times as many utility lines will be undergrounded if the California Public Utilities Commission approves the City's new program.

In an effort to build support for the City Council's plan to underground all utility lines throughout the City, I'm asking you to write to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to register your support for the program.

Under the new franchise agreement terms, the City will be able to ramp up its efforts from about 10 miles of undergrounding a year to almost 40 miles a year. This increase will greatly benefit the City's older urban neighborhoods, many of which are located in Council District Three.

The recent Council action, which formalized a renegotiation of the 50-year franchise agreement the City has with San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), still needs to be approved by the CPUC. If the renegotiation is approved by the CPUC, funds from the surcharge will be paid to the City and accounted for in a separate fund just for undergrounding. Letters of support to the CPUC are needed to help make the program a reality.

To date, the CPUC has received letters of opposition to the proposal, so that's why it is imperative that the residents of San Diego weigh in on this program. A quick letter to the CPUC expressing your support for the program would go a long way toward showing the CPUC there is local support for this plan.

Sample language for the letter could include the following:

The purpose of my letter is to request your strong support for the undergrounding surcharge Advice Letter 1407E/1313G submitted by San Diego Gas and Electric. In January of 2002, the City Council voted to accept the renegotiated terms of the City's franchise agreement with San Diego Gas and Electric. The actions taken by the City Council that day are extremely important to me. While opponents argue that costs for the undergrounding program are an undue burden, I disagree. The surcharge program will allow the City of San Diego to improve safety for its residents, remove the visual blight of the wires and restore the communities to neighborhoods we can all be proud of.

As a resident of the City of San Diego, I respectfully request your support of the Advice Letter submitted by San Diego Gas and Electric to increase the rate of undergrounding in the City of San Diego. The increase throughout the City of San Diego will go a long way toward restoring our older urban neighborhoods and improving the quality of life for all residents throughout the City.

Thank you.

Letters should be mailed to:

Energy Division- IMC Branch,
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102
RE: Advice Letter 1407-E/1313G

Included in the new council policy as allowable expenditures are pavement resurfacing, street light conversions, customer lateral conversions, environmental monitoring, and City construction management as it relates to undergrounding.

In This Issue

Click on a story below to visit that page

Undergrounding Letters Needed ...	1
Grape Street Park Designated Off-Leash ...	2
Mid-City Pipeline Improvements Continue ...	2
Energy Retrofit Program for Homeowners ...	3
Georgia Street Bridge Repairs Completed ...	3
Upcoming Street Fairs and Festivals ...	3
Photo Gallery ...	4

GRAPE STREET PARK DESIGNATED AS OFF-LEASH SITE

Council Approves Five Trial Dog Park Locations Citywide

On June 11th, as part of a series of actions regarding dog parks, I joined with a unanimous City Council to approve the designation of Grape Street Park as an off-leash area. The park, located at 28th and Grape streets in Golden Hill, had previously operated as an off-leash area on a trial basis.

For those of you who live in the neighborhood and would like to bring your dogs to this park, the hours during which Grape Street Park are open for off-leash activity are: Monday to Friday, 7:30-10:00am, and 4:00-9:00pm; and Saturday, Sunday and holidays from 9:00-11:00am and 4:00-9:00pm.



The council recently approved Grape Street Park in Golden Hill as an off-leash area.

In addition to Grape Street Park, our district also has two full-time off-leash areas in Balboa Park at Morley Field and Nates Point. These two areas were unaffected by the recent Council decision.

The Council also approved the establishment of five trial off-leash areas for dogs at various locations throughout the city. The following areas will be established for a one-year trial period:

- Doyle Community Park (University City)
- Torrey Highlands Maintenance Assessment District Park (Carmel Valley)
- Dusty Rhodes Neighborhood Park (OB/Mission Bay)
- Kearny Mesa Community Park (Linda Vista)
- Cabrillo Heights Neighborhood Park (Serra Mesa)

We also authorized the design and construction of an off-leash area in the Rancho Bernardo Community Park.

Additionally, in situations similar to Grape Street Park, the Council designated off-leash areas in Maddox Neighborhood Park (Mira Mesa) and Cadman Park (Clairemont) where one-year trial periods have successfully concluded. Capeheart Park was also designated as a dog park to serve the off-leash needs of Pacific Beach residents.

MID-CITY PIPELINE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE; CONSERVATION URGED

Pipeline Shutdown Will Affect Residents and Businesses in City Heights, Kensington, North Park, Normal Heights, Talmadge, and University Heights

The City of San Diego Water Department is urging all residents and businesses in the Mid-City area to conserve water by limiting non-essential water use for one month beginning June 26. Critical connection and shutdown work associated with the completion of the new Mid-City Water Pipeline Project and Metropolitan Transit Development Board's (MTDB) Mission Valley East Trolley Extension project may cause lower than normal water pressures during this period of time.

The City is asking for the cooperation of residents and businesses to help reduce water demands, especially during peak hours of 6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m., so they can ensure that everyone in these areas will have an adequate water supply.

Connection work associated with the construction of the Mid-City Pipeline, and the shutdown of the aging Trojan pipeline that currently serves the Mid-City area, may cause lower than normal water pressures between June 26 and July 26. Crews will work expeditiously to perform the work and do what is needed to return the system to normal operation as quickly as possible.

Examples of non-essential water use are filling swimming pools or spas, running washing machines and watering lawns or gardens during peak hours—6 to 9 a.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Completing those activities either before or after peak puts less strain on the water system.

The 4.5-mile-long Mid-City Pipeline will provide a needed backup supply of water and allow the City to inspect and repair portions of the Trojan Pipeline as needed. It will deliver up to 43 million gallons of water per day, increase water pressure and improve water delivery system reliability throughout Mid-City. Construction of the Mid-City Pipeline began in January of 2000. Much of the construction work is now complete. The total cost of the project is \$25 million and is funded by water rates, revenue bonds and capacity charges.

Mid-City residents are asked to call the Water Department's Emergency Services number at (619) 515-3525 if they are experiencing low water pressure for an extended period of time or water outages.

More information is available online at www.sandiego.gov or contact the Mid-City Pipeline Project hotline at (619) 533-4637 for additional details. For more information on MTDB's trolley extension project visit www.sdcommute.com/mve or call (877) MVE-RAIL (877-683-7845).

HOMEOWNERS CAN BENEFIT FROM ENERGY RETROFIT PROGRAM

Homeowners who take advantage of a new City energy retrofit program can save money and energy at the same time!

On June 4th, the City Council approved the receipt of a \$1,448,946 award from the California Public Utilities Commission to fund a Whole House Energy Retrofit Program designed to encourage the installation of energy efficiency technologies in older homes and provide financial assistance for low-income citizens to help reduce energy consumption.

This program is designed for homeowners residing in homes constructed before 1978, which is a large percentage of the homes in Council District Three. There are two subgroups of homeowners within the program's target market: (1) owners who submit plans for an addition to or a remodel of their home, and (2) "hard-to-reach" homeowners in low-income areas of the City. Incentives will be marketed to those subgroups as a comprehensive package of benefits that includes: (1) rebates available from SDG&E, (2) information about energy efficiency, (3) design and inspection assistance from the City, and (4) additional financial incentives offered through this program and other related programs.

Under this program, applicants will be able to take advantage of two levels of incentives depending on the extent of the retrofit work selected.

Package 1: For homeowners who insulate their attic with R-30 insulation, install double-pane windows, weather strip all exterior doors and seal and insulate heating ducts, install low-flow shower heads and wrap their water heaters (as appropriate), the retrofit incentive will be \$400 to \$800, depending on the applicant's income level.

Package 2: For homeowners who do all of the above and also install a new, high-efficient furnace, the retrofit incentive will be \$400 to \$800, depending on the applicant's income level.

If you're interested in participating in this program, contact my office at 619/236-6633.

RESOURCE DIRECTORIES AVAILABLE

In an effort to provide citizens with important phone numbers to deal with issues that arise in their day-to-day lives, I am again offering a District Three resource directory. This booklet contains phone numbers of city and county government and social service agencies, libraries, recreation programs and other numbers of interest to District Three residents, business owners, social service agencies and other organizations within Council District Three.

To receive a copy, call 619/236-6633.

GEORGIA STREET BRIDGE REPAIRS COMPLETED



Repair work to the facade of the north retaining wall of the Georgia Street Bridge was completed the first week of June.

These temporary repairs patched up the gaping holes that had formed recently, exposing the rebar underneath and causing a hazard to motorists. The repairs also included a complete smoothing and resurfacing of the northern facade to blend in the repaired areas—which were quite substantial—with the rest of the wall.

Over the next four months Caltrans will be conducting a seismic vulnerability study to determine whether the bridge will best be served by a retrofit or a complete rebuild, and whether the retaining walls should be included in the project. Either way, the pending bridge project is projected to be completed in 2006.

UPCOMING DISTRICT THREE STREET FAIRS AND FESTIVALS

Golden Hill Street Festival
Broadway and 25th Street
Sunday, June 30th
11:00am to 6:00pm
Contact: Shirley Johnson, 619/235-5209

SummerFest In Balboa Park (City Employees Fair)
Throughout Balboa Park
Saturday, July 13th
9:00am to 5:00pm
Contact: 619/533-6698

SD Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Festival
Marston Point in Balboa Park
Saturday and Sunday, July 27-28
Sat.: 1pm to 10pm, Sun.: 11am to 9pm
Contact: 619/297-7683

PHOTO GALLERY



Councilmember Atkins and local artist Tom Benson receive Azalea Awards from Linda Pennington on behalf of the Azalea Park Neighborhood Association.

Councilmember Atkins, Mayor Murphy and Dan Mazzella, chair of the Balboa Park Committee, at the ribbon-cutting for the renovated Botanical Building in Balboa Park.



Councilmember Atkins presents First Unitarian Universalist Church Reverends Carolyn and Tom Owen-Towle with a resolution proclaiming a day in their honor upon their retirement from the church after 24 years of service.



Councilmember Atkins at the recent dedication of the downtown Greyhound Community Reflections Mural.

Councilmember Atkins presents SDSU with a resolution honoring their Consensus Organizing Project/Step-Up Program which offers outreach to high school students to further their careers in social service with an emphasis on giving back to their communities.



Councilmember Atkins and Mayor Murphy present a \$10,000 check to the Centro Cultural de la Raza for a new security system. The donation was made after the Centro was hit with hate language graffiti on its exterior walls.



Councilmember Atkins and Councilmember Byron Wear try out the new multi-space parking meter on University Avenue in Hillcrest. This state-of-the-art meter, a six-month demonstration project of the Uptown Partnership, is designed to reduce clutter along urban sidewalks.

Councilmember Atkins and Mayor Murphy were on hand to cut the ribbon at the recent Veterans Memorial Center and Museum Rededication in Balboa Park. Councilmember Atkins was honored to deliver the keynote address.



